

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 and the specification are amended and claim 5 is canceled. Claim 1 is amended to overcome the rejections over the art. Claim 7 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. The language added to claim 1 can be found in original claim 5 and the language added to claim 7 can be found in original claim 1.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2, 5 and 7 are allowable. To this end, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 5 into independent claim 1.

II. Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to because they allegedly include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to add the reference characters in the description. Thus, withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

A. Claim 5

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, a discrepancy between the specification and the claims allegedly existed. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification to conform the specification language to the claim language.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Claim 7

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Patent Office alleges that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for producing a phosphor thin film by a vapor deposition method using a single vapor source including an oxide or sulfide of a rare earth metal, a substance acting as a luminescent center and at least one alkaline earth element and then annealing the resulting thin film.

As suggested by the Patent Office, claim 7 has been amended to recite the production of thin films of phosphor having the formula $A_xB_yO_wS_z$. Applicants submit that as claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the Patent Office, this rejection is now moot.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Patent Office alleges that the term "thin film" is indefinite and misdescriptive. Accordingly, as suggested by the Patent Office, Applicants have amended the preamble of claim 1 to recite "a phosphor thin film on a support." Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 02-51891 ("JP '891") or JP 02-148688 ("JP '688"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, and as acknowledged by the Patent Office, claim 5 recited allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1. Further, claims 3 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are thus also allowable.

Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

Leana Levi

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:LL/lxl

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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